

## SENATE BILL NO. 380

INTRODUCED BY W. MCNUTT, WANZENRIED, COLE, DOHERTY, G. FORRESTER, HALLIGAN,  
LINDEEN, SHEA, TESTER, F. THOMAS, WITT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT FEES AND LENGTH LIMITS  
ON TRIPLE TRAILER TRUCK CONFIGURATIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-10-124 AND 61-10-201,  
MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 61-10-203, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 61-10-124, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-10-124. Special permits -- fees.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), and (4),  
in addition to the regular registration and gross vehicle weight fees, a fee of \$10 for each trip permit and  
a fee of \$75 for each term permit issued for size in excess of that specified in 61-10-101 through  
61-10-104 must be paid for all movements under special permits on the public highways under the  
jurisdiction of the department of transportation.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(f), (4), and (5), term or blanket permits  
may not be issued for an overwidth vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 15  
feet; an overlength vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, object, or other thing in excess of 95 feet; or  
an overheight vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of 14 feet or of a limit  
determined by the department. A vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or other thing in excess of these  
dimensions is limited to trip permits. A Rocky Mountain double may not exceed 81 feet in combined trailer  
length. A Rocky Mountain double is not subject to a combination length limit. Special permits for vehicle  
combinations of more than two trailers or more than two units designed for or used to carry a load are not  
permitted except as provided in subsections (4) and (5). Special permits for vehicle combinations may  
specify and special permits under subsections (4) and (5) must specify highway routing and otherwise limit  
or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or combination, including but not limited to required  
equipment, speed, stability, operational procedures, and insurance.

(b) A term permit may be issued to a dealer in implements of husbandry and self-propelled  
machinery for an overwidth or overlength vehicle referred to in subsection (2)(a). The fee for this permit

1 is \$75. This permit expires on December 31 of each year, with no grace period.

2 (c) With payment of the appropriate gross weight fees required by 61-10-201 and with payment  
3 of the fee prescribed in subsection (1), allowable gross weight of a five-axle combination logging vehicle  
4 is 80,000 pounds.

5 (d) A term permit may be issued for any combination of vehicles that exceeds 95 feet in length  
6 but does not exceed 100 feet in combination length, except a truck-trailer-trailer or a truck  
7 tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination, for travel only on highways that are part of the federal-aid  
8 interstate system, as defined in 60-1-103, or on other highways within a 2-mile radius of an interchange  
9 on the interstate system in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a  
10 terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the  
11 interchange. The fee for this permit is \$125.

12 (e) A term permit may be issued for a truck tractor-semitrailer combination when the semitrailer  
13 exceeds 53 feet in length but does not exceed 57 feet in length.

14 (f) (i) An annual permit may be issued for nondivisible loads up to 120 feet in length. The fee for  
15 this permit is \$125.

16 (ii) Portions of a nondivisible load hauled on a public road off of the interstate highway may be  
17 detached and reloaded on the same hauling unit if the separate pieces are necessary to the operation of  
18 the machine or equipment that is being hauled and if the arrangement does not exceed limits for which  
19 a permit may be issued.

20 (iii) An applicant for a nondivisible load permit for use as provided in subsection (6)(b) is responsible  
21 for providing information regarding the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

22 (iv) For use as provided in subsection (6)(b) and for the purposes of this section, emergency  
23 response vehicles and casks designed and used for the transport of spent nuclear materials are considered  
24 nondivisible loads.

25 (3) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a permit may not be issued for a period of time greater  
26 than the period for which the GVW license is valid as provided in this title, including grace periods allowed  
27 by this title. Owners of vehicles licensed in other jurisdictions may, at the discretion of the department of  
28 transportation, purchase permits to expire with their registration. A license required by the state governs  
29 the issuance of a special permit.

30 (4) The department may issue special permits to the operating company for a truck-trailer-trailer

1 or truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles under the following conditions:

2 (a) the combination may be operated only on highways that are part of the federal-aid interstate  
3 system, as defined in 60-1-103, and within a 2-mile radius of an interchange on the interstate system on  
4 other highways only in order to obtain necessary services or to load or unload at a terminal. When a  
5 terminal is beyond a 2-mile radius, the department may authorize travel between the terminal and the  
6 interchange.

7 ~~(b) a combination of vehicles powered by a cab-over (tilt cab) type truck tractor or a truck may~~  
8 ~~not exceed overall length of 105 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang;~~

9 ~~———(c) a combination of vehicles powered by a conventional truck tractor may not exceed overall~~  
10 ~~length of 110 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers and overhang~~ the combined trailer length may not  
11 exceed 95 feet;

12 ~~(d)(c)~~ an individual cargo unit of the combination may not exceed 28 1/2 feet in length and 102  
13 inches in width;

14 ~~(e)(d)~~ gross weight fees under ~~61-10-203~~ 61-10-201 must be paid on the truck or truck tractor  
15 for the declared registered gross weight of the special vehicle combination, but not to exceed the formula  
16 in 61-10-107;

17 ~~(f)(e)~~ the combination must have a special overlength permit issued at a fee of \$200 for a term  
18 permit or \$20 for each trip permit;

19 ~~(g)(f)~~ travel of the combination may be restricted to specific routes, hours of operation, specific  
20 days, or seasonal periods; and

21 ~~(h)(g)~~ the department may enforce any other restrictions determined by the department to be  
22 necessary. The permit is not transferable, and the fee for the permit is \$200.

23 (5) The department of transportation may issue special permits under subsection (4) for vehicle  
24 combinations that consist of a truck-trailer-trailer if:

25 (a) the vehicle combination's overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, is not more than  
26 95 feet; and

27 (b) the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit:

28 (i) restricts truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the hauling of talc ore,  
29 chlorite, dolomite, limestone, and custom combine equipment;

30 (ii) operated the truck-trailer-trailer combination before July 1, 1987;

(iii) restricts the truck-trailer-trailer operations authorized by the permit to the specified routes that those vehicles used before July 1, 1987; and

(iv) provides the department of transportation with an affidavit confirming the routes used before July 1, 1987, for truck-trailer-trailer operations.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a "nondivisible load" is:

(a) on public roads off of interstate highways, a load that cannot be readily or reasonably dismantled and that is reduced to a minimum practical size and weight;

(b) on interstate highways, a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length or weight limits that, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

(i) compromise the intended use of the vehicle;

(ii) destroy the value of the load or vehicle; or

(iii) require more than 8 work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment."

**Section 2.** Section 61-10-201, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-10-201. Weight fees on motortrucks, truck tractors, and buses.** In addition to other fees for the licensing of vehicles ~~and except as provided in 61-10-203~~, there must be paid and collected annually for each truck, truck tractor, and bus, based upon the manufacturer's rated capacity for trucks with a capacity of 1 ton or less and upon the maximum gross loaded weight and the maximum gross weight of any towed unit of each truck and truck tractor as set by the licensee in the licensee's application, the following fees:

Schedule I

Manufacturer's rated capacity up to 1/2 ton	\$ 7.00
Manufacturer's rated capacity of 3/4 ton	12.50
Manufacturer's rated capacity of 1 ton	17.50
Up to 16,000 lbs	21.00
16,001 through 18,000 lbs	28.00
18,001 through 20,000 lbs	37.50
20,001 through 22,000 lbs	47.00
22,001 through 24,000 lbs	70.00

1	24,001 through 26,000 lbs . . . . .	90.00
2	26,001 through 28,000 lbs . . . . .	110.00
3	28,001 through 30,000 lbs . . . . .	130.00
4	30,001 through 32,000 lbs . . . . .	150.00
5	32,001 through 34,000 lbs . . . . .	170.00
6	34,001 through 36,000 lbs . . . . .	190.00
7	36,001 through 38,000 lbs . . . . .	215.00
8	38,001 through 40,000 lbs . . . . .	235.00
9	40,001 through 42,000 lbs . . . . .	255.00
10	42,001 through 44,000 lbs . . . . .	275.00
11	44,001 through 46,000 lbs . . . . .	300.00
12	46,001 through 48,000 lbs . . . . .	320.00
13	48,001 through 50,000 lbs . . . . .	340.00
14	50,001 through 52,000 lbs . . . . .	360.00
15	52,001 through 54,000 lbs . . . . .	380.00
16	54,001 through 56,000 lbs . . . . .	400.00
17	56,001 through 58,000 lbs . . . . .	420.00
18	58,001 through 60,000 lbs . . . . .	440.00
19	60,001 through 62,000 lbs . . . . .	460.00
20	62,001 through 64,000 lbs . . . . .	482.50
21	64,001 through 66,000 lbs . . . . .	502.50
22	66,001 through 68,000 lbs . . . . .	522.50
23	68,001 through 70,000 lbs . . . . .	545.75
24	70,001 through 72,000 lbs . . . . .	566.50
25	72,001 through 74,000 lbs . . . . .	607.50
26	74,001 through 76,000 lbs . . . . .	655.00
27	76,001 through 78,000 lbs . . . . .	695.00
28	78,001 through 80,000 lbs . . . . .	750.00
29	Over 80,000 lbs. and within the weight limits	
30	specified in 61-10-101 through 61-10-104	

1 and 61-10-106 through 61-10-110 . . . . . 750.00  
2 plus an additional 46.00  
3 for each ton or fraction of a ton  
4 in excess of 80,000 lbs.  
5 plus an additional \$100.00  
6 to exceed the 80,000 lbs.  
7 federal gross weight limit."  
8

9 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Repealer.** Section 61-10-203, MCA, is repealed.

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